

MINUTES of the 246th meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father David Finegan, President of the Council, Mrs Elaine Durbin, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Mrs Josephine Lea, Mr Allan Scott and Mrs Pat Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Mrs Christine Cannon and Mrs Gillian Millyard.

47/17 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Jo Lea welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Council following the elections in October and particularly welcomed Mrs Pat Smith as the only new member of the Council. Father David formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

48/17 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN: in his capacity as President of the Council Father David invited nominations for the position of Chairman. Carole Kelly proposed that Jo Lea continue as Chairman and this was seconded by Elaine Durbin. There were no other nominations. The proposal was unanimously supported and Jo duly assumed the Chair.

49/17 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN: Inviting nominations for Vice-Chairman, Richard Hall proposed that Christine Cannon continue in this position. The proposal was seconded by Allan Scott. There were no other nominations and the proposal was carried unanimously.

50/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 245th meeting of the PPC, held on 14th September 2017, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

51/17 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

52/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: At the previous meeting it had been proposed that consideration be given to the best ways in which the Council could assist the Parish Priest in his duties. This proposal would be considered under Any Other Business – See Minutes of 14th September 2017, Item 32/17.

53/17 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 14th November 2017.

- ❖ **CHURCH REDECORATION:** Having completed the re-decoration of the Porch, Sacristy and corridor, it was agreed that the Narthex also be painted thus finishing the whole church. Shelves are to be placed over the storage heaters and some rotten woodwork in the Sacristy is to be treated.
- ❖ **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** Father David is talking to Orsmy and there was a possibility of a tabernacle, currently in storage here, being used in the church. Father David will investigate whether this tabernacle can be used.
- ❖ **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** The ARCHITECT, Tim Buxbaum, is at the point of approaching Buildings Control for approval of the plans. Richard Hall suggested that the time was fast approaching when the Parish should be made fully aware of what is

proposed and seeking any comments. This was agreed and Simon Millyard will be asked to source outline plans and costs from the architect that can be presented to the parish in the near future.

- ❖ **SECOND COLLECTIONS 2018:** The list has been agreed by the Finance Committee. It was reported that HCPT will be organising coffee after both Stowmarket Masses on 28th January 2018 to raise awareness of the Group. It had further been agreed that this year's Crib Offerings should be given to HCPT. It was stated that the Stowmarket Group were making the pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2018.
- ❖ The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Tuesday 23rd January 2018.

54/17 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman said that the next meeting would take place on Saturday 25th November and she would be attending.

55/17 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman said that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 29th November and she would be attending with Father David in his capacity as Dean.

56/17 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: In the absence of Gillian Millyard, the Clerk read her report. "We had a Sick & Housebound Mass on 22nd October. 21 people came to be anointed and 12 people were sent cards to assure them of our prayers at the Mass. An excellent tea followed as usual with excellent conversation and much laughter. This is a very well received event particularly by those unable to get to Mass on a Sunday".

57/17 CATECHIST'S REPORT: In the absence of Debbie Kerry there was no formal report, but Father David stated that there were eleven children enrolled in the First Holy Communion class for 2018 and just two children for the following year.

58/17 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Allan Scott reported. He said that the Soup Day held on 18th November had been very successful with over £200 raised. The proceeds are to be split between the Cafod Harvest Fast Day appeal and the Stowmarket Food Bank. Plans for the Prayers for Peace on Sunday 26th are well in hand. Rosemary Muntus is organising as she has in the past. It was further reported that from January 2018 Fair Trade stalls at Our Lady's will be in alternate months, i.e. January, March etc.

59/17 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She said that the September fashion show, organised in conjunction with the URC had been a great success and had realised around £435 for Our Lady's. The Parish Bazaar had also done very well with takings approaching £2,500 to date. It had been a lot of hard work for her band of helpers, but the event was judged to have been a social success. Further sales were to be made of residue goods including a stall outside Argos (Stowmarket) on Saturday 9th December. A meeting would be called in January 2018 to discuss the way ahead for fundraising and to take a decision whether or not to hold an autumn bazaar in 2018. Carole asked that the garage door be replaced as it was deemed to be dangerous as it did not open properly – this was agreed by Father David and does not need to be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Chairman said she wished to place on record her own thanks and those of the whole parish for the considerable efforts and work undertaken by the bazaar team and in particular to Carole who had guided their efforts. These sentiments were roundly supported by the whole Council.

60/17 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: This year's Advent Service will take place in the Parish Church on Sunday 3rd December starting at 6pm. This event is to be advertised in the Parish Newsletter.

61/17 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: The Chairman reported. Jo said that there had been a good response to the appeal for Christmas goods and that there had been a collection at Tesco, Stowmarket, that day, but she was not yet aware of the result. Decoration of boxes to be used as Christmas Hampers had been started, but volunteers were needed to complete the task. Jo would liaise with parishioners who might be able to help. The first hamper is due to be given out on 10th December.

62/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: The matter of forming a small working party to discuss how assistance could be rendered to the Parish Priest was discussed and it was agreed that the members would be, Jo Lea, Elaine Durbin, Richard Hall and Pat Smith. This group would first meet with Father David on a date to be mutually agreed early in the New Year.

63/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 247th, will take place in the same location on **Thursday 1st February 2018**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Signed Date